

Lower Eastern Shore Tributary Team

February 2005

About the Watershed:

The Lower Eastern Shore Watershed includes Worcester, Somerset, Wicomico, most of Dorchester, and a portion of Caroline Counties and drains the Nanticoke, Wicomico, Manokin, and the Big and the Little Annemessex Rivers. The predominant land use in the basin is agriculture, making nutrient management on agricultural lands and habitat restoration priorities for the Lower Eastern Shore Tributary Team.

About the Team:

The mission of the Lower Eastern Shore Tributary Team is to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs and to restore habitat in the Lower Eastern Shore Watershed through community participation. With this mission in mind, the team spent much of 2001 - 2004 building successful partnerships and increasing membership. Partnerships were utilized to combine resources, technical expertise, and creative project ideas. These partnerships involved a variety of constituencies, including state and local elected officials, county planners, wastewater treatment plant operators, waterfront homeowners, and environmental organizations.



The Lower Eastern Shore Team's annual wade-in takes place in the Nanticoke River near the Town of Vienna. In 2002, participants reached a depth of 19 inches.



Starting in 2001, the team decided to focus on habitat restoration in addition to nutrient reduction programs and practices. For the past 5 years, the team concentrated on nutrient reduction initiatives. The *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement*, however, includes habitat restoration as an important component to restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. This new emphasis provides the team with increased opportunities to engage new stakeholders, to expand membership, to conduct hands-on restoration projects, and to help reduce nutrient inputs to the basin's rivers.

Recent Accomplishments

• Salisbury RiverFest Information Booth (2004)
- Teamed up with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to increase awareness and to educate people on the current state of the Bay and what they can do to reduce pollutants entering the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

• The Team organized a tour of the Perdue Poultry Litter Pelletizing Plant in Laurel, DE. Tour participants learned about the manure recycling program and discussed with plant operators ideas to increase the use and sales of the end product.

☞ The Team is currently working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Nanticoke Watershed Alliance to host a one day conference on managing the rapidly increasing growth occurring on the Eastern Shore.

☞ The Team has been working with Department of the Environment, local governments and others to create more opportunities for spray irrigation throughout the basin.

☞ Partnership Building (2004-2005) – The team continued outreach to all stakeholders in the basin in an effort to build team membership and begin to focus team efforts.

☞ Nonpoint Source Pollution Education to Homeowners (2001) – The team used materials developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to encourage residents to prevent harmful runoff from lawns and cars by limiting fertilizer use, cleaning up after pets, washing cars on grass or gravel instead of the street, and repairing cars that leak oil.

For More Information:

For more information, contact Jeanne Lynch, team coordinator, at 410-260-8722. You can also visit our website at www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/.



The Lower Eastern Shore Team partnered with the Maryland Conservation Corps to stencil stormdrains in downtown Salisbury to educate people about nonpoint source pollution.



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Team Members

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Team Participants

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